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"prehistoric" and "unhistoric." He neatly characterizes the phases of historical writing, and shows that only in the last, the "genetic," history has become a science. Throughout he argues against the conception of history as an art. Of especial interest are the portions on philosophy of history; subjective and objective histories; tracking down fables, such as those concerning Tell, "the true wives of Weinsberg," and the Moabite antiquities; recomposition of lost chronicles from fragments contained in other works; and the determination of the date, birthplace and authorship of a document.

This work has met with the most cordial reception. In Germany it is considered "one of the most excellent works of historical science in recent years." Dr. Vincent, who has used it at Johns Hopkins, says: "The best existing handbook on historical science. I think it is strong on the critical side rather than in the psychological analysis or psychological reconstruction of history. No other book that I know of contains the rules of criticism in better form." Among the useful features of the book are carefully selected bibliographies on all the topics treated. The author does not claim to settle any disputed points, but to make a fair statement of the arguments on either side. The book is full of practical suggestions, both general and most specialized, such as the best method of taking notes, or the meaning of "tamen" in Einhard's "Life of Charlemagne." Unfortunately, the use of this wealth of material is hindered by the lack of index and page-headings. In the forthcoming edition we trust that these aids, so essential to a text-book, will be furnished.

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*L'Europe politique et sociale.* Par MAURICE BLOCK. Deuxième édition, ouvrage entièrement nouveau, avec 18 cartes et 5 diagrammes. Pp. 586. Paris: Hachette et Cie. 1892.

This is a new edition of the work that appeared in 1869. The changes in Europe have been so great that it was necessary to rewrite rather than revise the former edition. M. Block's object is to explain rather than to advocate; to put into a book the results of the observation and study which he has for years given to the condition of Europe. The book is divided into three parts: Political Europe, Economic Europe and Social Europe. In the first part, the organization, territory, population, finances, and army and navy of each country are described. The second division of the work deals with the economic life of the several European nations, and treats of their agriculture, industry, commerce and means of communication. The

portion of the book devoted to social Europe comprises over half the volume. Here it is undertaken to describe the complicated moral and intellectual relations of men in society. There is no attempt made to be complete; an exhaustive presentation would require twenty volumes. "But who would read these volumes?" asks M. Block, with the Frenchman's characteristic fear of being dull. Still, the chapters on the social classes are well worth reading. The condition of the classes of society is pictured and the various influences that must operate to improve their status are discussed under the chapter headings, Well-being, Luxury and Misery, Prices and Salaries, Co-operation, Moral Influences and Public Instruction, Crime and Immorality, Socialism, and Social Reforms.

M. Block has no sympathy with Socialism. "What we have is bad," he says; "but that which it is desired to put in its place is a hundred times worse." His facts and figures, however, are not given to prove a thesis; his work is scientific, and the volume will serve as a useful reference book for the general student whose desire is to obtain an outline, rather than a detailed knowledge, of the subjects treated.

E. R. J.

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*Le Socialisme allemand et le Nihilisme russe.* Par J. BOURDEAU.

Pp. 318. Paris: Félix Alcan. 1892.

*Studien über Proudhon.* Von Dr. ARTHUR MÜLBERGER. Pp. 171.  
Stuttgart: G. J. Göschenseche. 1891.

It has been a proof of the weakness of early socialism that its history has naturally been written in the form of a series of biographical studies. In our complex modern world, whatever may be true of primitive times, really great movements are seldom to be attributed to one or a few individuals. The beginnings of great changes are to be sought for not in biographies but in careful analysis of the constituent elements of a period. Socialism has stood this test but poorly, since it has been treated in a legion of books, from Reybaud's "*Socialistes Modernes*," in 1830, to the present, as an account and a criticism of the life and ideas of Babeuf, St. Simon, Fourier, Louis Blanc, Owen, Rodbertus, Lassalle, Marx and a few minor prophets. It is, on the other hand, a sign of our times, an indication of the greater seriousness of the present socialistic movement that individuals are of less importance than the great moving mass, and that M. Bourdeau devotes one half of his book to a study of the origin and progress of German socialism, almost apart from its leaders. It is true that he devotes the second half to biographies of Marx, Lassalle and Bakounine, yet he returns to the other plan in the supplementary on Russian nihilism. In these first and last portions, the value of the book lies.